

11 September 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SPECIAL GROUP

SUBJECT: Reconnaissance of Cuba

At a meeting in Mr. Bundy's office yesterday, attended by the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Acting Director of Central Intelligence and others, the Secretary expressed concern at the Agency's planned coverage of Cuba, involving extensive peripheral coverage as well as two legs directly over Cuban air space, all in one flight. He said that he had no objection to the peripheral parts and, in fact, thought it useful to continue to establish our right to fly over international waters. On the other hand, he recognized the necessity of obtaining vertical coverage of the Isle of Pines and the eastern portion of Cuba at this time. He felt, however, that it is unwise to combine extensive overflying of international waters, with actual overflights. He pointed out that the long peripheral flight would draw undue attention to the mission and further that should the aircraft fall into enemy hands after an overflight had occurred, this would put the U.S. in a very poor position for standing on its rights to overfly international waters.

Taking these views into account, the Agency plans to break this proposed coverage into four parts - the Isle of Pines, the area roughly east of longitude 77 west, and two legs along the coast - one north and one south.

Within this framework, higher authority gave approval this morning for two additional missions to be added to the one for which authority is currently outstanding. (Priority will be given to the two overflights.)

[Redacted]

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Thomas A. Parrott

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Mr. Johnson  
Mr. Gilpatric  
General Carter  
Mr. Bundy

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13 September 1962

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REFERENCE: [REDACTED] Memorandum for the Special Group,  
dated 11 September 1962, same subject.

Please add the following footnote to ref. document:

N.B. Mr. Bundy said, on 13 September 1962, that he thought the intent of higher authority's approval was such that the entire number of four missions could be considered as being approved. This thus extends the outstanding authorizations from three to four.

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Thomas A. Parrott

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Mr. Gilpatrick  
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